

Proposed Amendments to the Drawings:

The sheet of drawings attached in the Appendix includes changes to Figures 13, 14, 15, and 18. This sheet replaces the original sheet. Applicants propose amending the drawings as follows:

Figure 13 has been amended to more clearly show that the angle α is the angle of the distal edge 32 measured relative to a line or plane 27 perpendicular to the longitudinal axis A-A of the instrument guide 22.

Figure 14 has been amended to more specifically reference the dimensions of the distal end 24 of the instrument guide 22. In particular, the height and length of the paddle 30 is referenced with H and L, respectively. In addition, the max height, H_{\max} , of the paddle 30 is also shown.

Figure 15, an end view of the distal end of the instrument guide of Figure 13, has been amended to include additional lines and reference numerals to make the Figure consistent with Figures 13 and 14. Since the added lines and reference numerals are shown in Figures 13 and 14 as originally filed, the amendment to Figure 15 adds no new subject matter.

Figure 18 has been amended to more clearly show that the angle α is the angle of the distal edge 132 measured relative to a line or plane 127 perpendicular to the longitudinal axis A-A of the instrument guide 122.

Accordingly, the proposed drawing amendments add no new subject matter. Approval of the proposed drawing changes is respectfully requested.

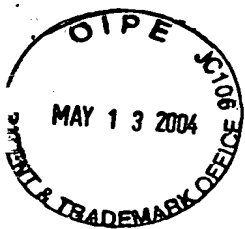


FIG. 13

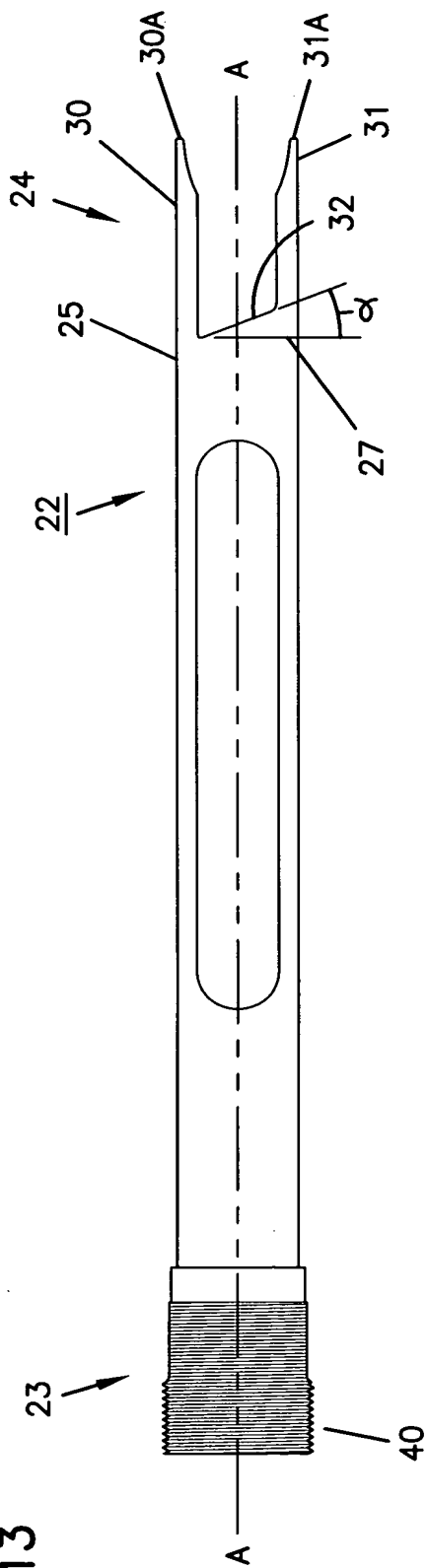


FIG. 14

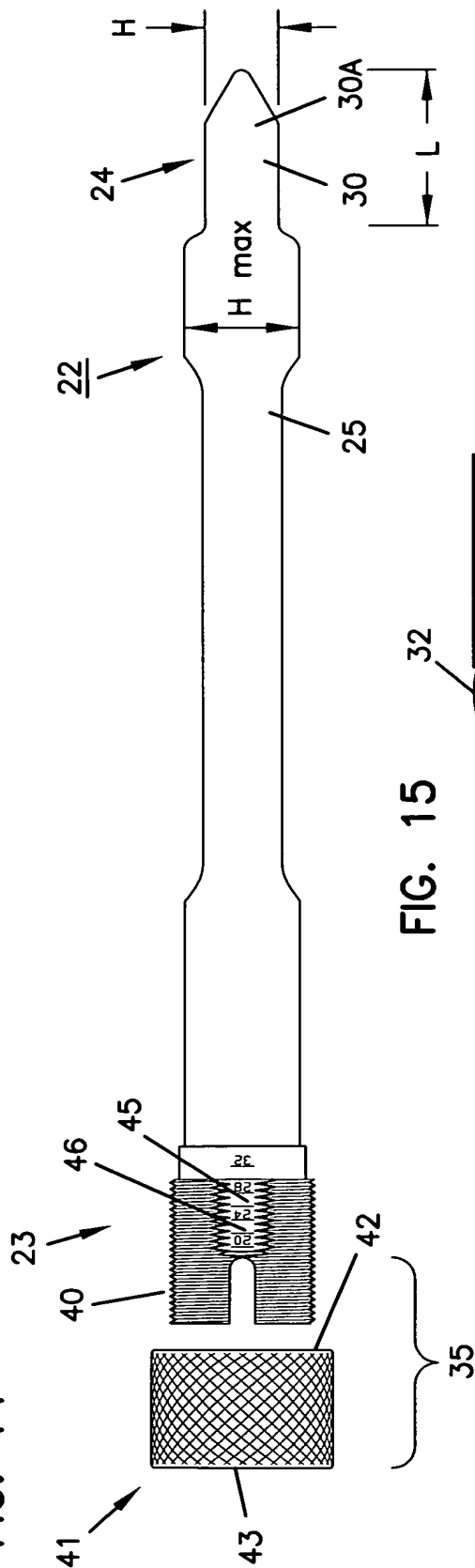


FIG. 15

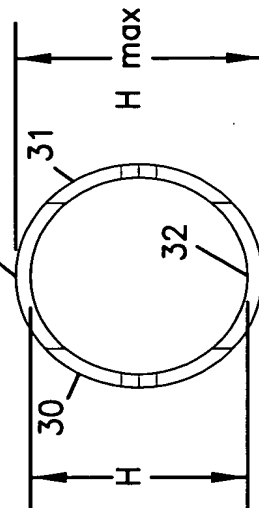




FIG. 18

